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Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-07 OES-06 DLOS-06 COME-00 INT-05 /091 W
---------- 041256 /12
R 170855Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4284
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 18546

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, JA, UR
SUBJECT: JAPAN-USSR RELATIONS

1. FONOFF FIRST EAST EUROPEAN DIVDIR TOGO TOLD EMBOFF DECEMBER 17 THAT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SOVS AND JAPANESE BEGINNING TO RETURN TO NORMAL AFTER MIG-25 AFFAIR. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR SHIGEMITSU CALLED ON FISHERIES MINISTER ISHKOV DECEMBER 15 TO PROTEST SOVIET UNI-LATERAL EXTENSION OF 200-MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHERIES ZONE AND REQUEST NEGOTIATIONS SOON FOR FISHING RIGHTS WITHIN AREA. ISHKOV ASSURED SHIGEMITSU THAT SOVIETS INTENDED TO HOLD TALKS WITH COUNTRIES CONCERNED AND GAVE JAPANESE TO UNDERSTAND THAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD BEGIN LATE JANUARY, EARLY FEBRUARY AS SOON AS JAPANESE CABINET SETTLED AND HIS OWN HEALTH RECOVERED (TOGO SAID ISHKOV'S LEG WAS IN CAST).

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2. EARLIER ON DECEMBER 13 SHIGEMITSU HAD CALLED ON FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN TRADE SEMICHASTNOV TO INQUIRE ABOUT PROSPECTS FOR VISIT OF TRADE MINISTER PATOLICHEV. INITIATIVE FOR CALL HAD COME FROM MOSCOW'S TRADE REPRESENTATIVE IN TOKYO WHO ADVISED THAT JAPANESE DEMARCHE IN MOSCOW WOULD START BALL ROLLING AGAIN.

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SEMICHASTNOV WAS CORDIAL AND ADVISED SHIGEMITSU THAT ANSWER WOULD BE FORTHCOMING DECEMBER 20. TOGO EXPECTS PATOLICHEV VISIT TO JAPAN TO OCCUR SOMETIME IN LATE JANUARY., AND JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE MEETING TO BE SCHEDULED SOON THEREAFTER.

3. TOGO ALSO NOTED THAT TRILATERAL MEETING BETWEEN SOVIET, AMERICAN AND JAPANESE REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANIZATIONS PARTICIPATING IN YAKUTIA NATURAL GAS PROJECT HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 21 IN PARIS. VISIT OF JAPANESE FONMIN TO USSR, HOWEVER, HAD NOT BEEN RAISED RECENTLY BY EITHER SIDE AND WOULD REMAIN IN LIMBO AT LEAST UNTIL CABINET CHOSEN.
HODGSON

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